

Bottlenecks planning W-B location

The owner of a local pub and eatery is going to try to duplicate its success in Wilkes-Barre.

Jason Misto, owner and operator of Bottlenecks Saloon and Eatery - located at McKenna's Corners in West Hazleton - said the local business will be recreated in a space occupied by Wendy's on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square, next door to the Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Misto said the new Bottlenecks Saloon and Eatery be open for lunch. Because of its location, it will cater to a different crowd than the original.

"We're going to try to do a lot more with offices, which are nearby," Misto said of the new establishment. "It has a central (downtown) location, so I think it will be good for lunch. We will also deliver lunch."

Misto said if "everything goes perfect," he would like to be open by mid-March, or around St. Patrick's Day.

The new Bottlenecks will have a larger staff than the current one, which is staffed mostly by Misto's family members. "We will probably have 10 to 15 full-time employees, and some part-timers."

The differences between the two Bottlenecks ends there, Misto said.

"It's a little narrower and much longer (than the West Hazleton location), but it's about the same square footage," Misto said. "I would like to be able to offer the same things as we do now, like shuffleboard. I would also like to have one menu."

Aside from the chicken wings, steaks and burgers the West Hazleton Bottlenecks offers, there are specials almost every night of the week: Mondays, pasta; Tuesdays, wings; Wednesdays, steak and ale; Fridays, half-price happy hour appetizers, and Saturdays, either a live band or ladies' night, with half-price martinis.

Although the new facility will open earlier, Misto said he intends for the kitchen to stay open until midnight, seven days a week, like the original location does.

The liquor license for the new establishment is coming from the former Lowe's Bar and Restaurant, which operated on West Market Street in Wilkes-Barre until about six years ago.

Misto said this past November, the original Bottlenecks celebrated its seventh anniversary. So he wanted to expand.

"I love the place we have," Misto said. "But I would like to expand. It seems like the natural progression - go up the line to Wilkes-Barre and Scranton or over to Bloomsburg. I know we will

have much competition. We won't stick out as much. But I hang out in Wilkes-Barre and I like it there."

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